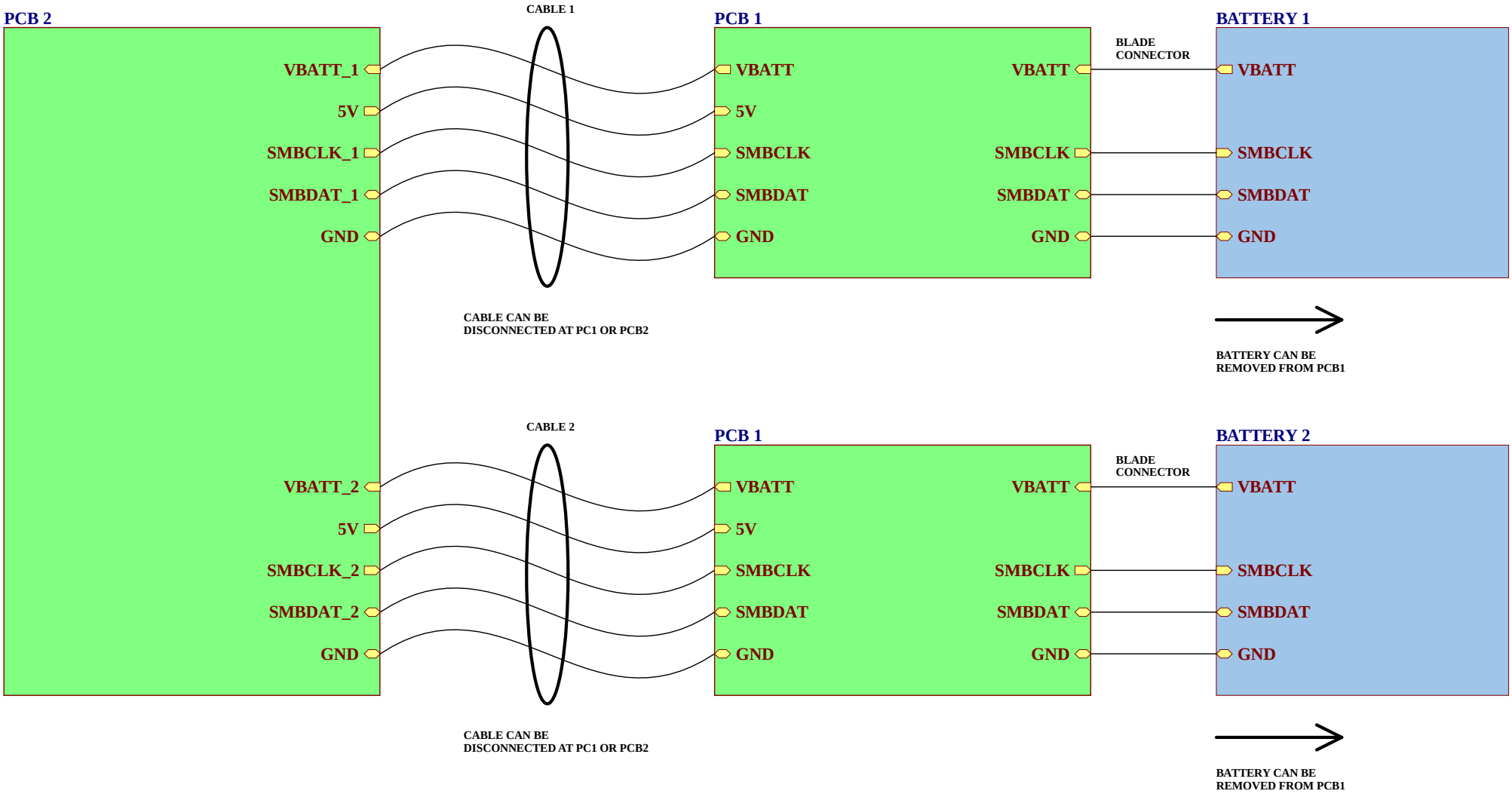SYSTEM OVERVIEW